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In an embodiment of the invention, the channels transferred to a backup channel in conjunction with protection switch-over are left at the locations to which they were transferred in conjunction with the switch-over, regardless of the redefined composition of the V5 interface.

In an embodiment of the invention, changes in conjunction with a redefinition of the composition of a V5 interface are made in the original composition regardless of protection switch-over operations carried out in the V5 interface.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the following, the invention will be described by the aid of a preferred embodiment by referring to the attached drawings, in which

FIG. 1a represents a V5 interface according to the invention;

FIG. 1b represents a functional state of the V5 interface in FIG. 1a;

FIG. 2a represents a functional state according to the present invention; and

FIG. 2b represents another functional state according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

FIGS. 1a and 1b present a V5 interface according to the invention between a local exchange LE and an access node AN. In FIG. 1a, a signalling channel has been configured to use the topmost link in the V5 interface. Further, a backup channel to which one of the signalling channels can be switched over has been configured to be carried by the bottom link. In FIG. 1b, a switch-over of the signalling channel to the backup channel is carried out due to malfunction of the top link, in other words, the signalling channel originally allocated to the top link is transferred to the bottom link in place of the backup channel.

FIG. 2 illustrates a solution according to the invention for ensuring the activation of the signalling channels when a new V5 interface composition is defined without using the reprovision function. In the solution presented in FIG. 2, when a backup configuration is introduced, protection switch-overs of signalling channels carried out previously in the interface are taken into account. In practice, this means that the signalling channels already switched over as illustrated by FIG. 2a are left at the locations to which they have been transferred in consequence of protection switch-over, in this case on the lowest link, and not at the locations where they were placed in the original configuration. Further, in FIG. 2a a redefinition has been performed in which it has been decided that the original backup channel, which has

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been on the lowest link as shown in FIG. 1a, shall be removed. The system removes it based on the situation after the switch-over, so in this case the backup channel is removed from the physical location that in the operator's original composition contained a signalling channel (from the top link). FIG. 2b illustrates another solution according to the invention for ensuring the activation of signalling channels. In the arrangement presented in FIG. 2b, the changes are made in the composition originally created in the system by the operator, without taking into account any protection switch-overs carried out before. Thus, in a situation as illustrated by FIG. 2b, the system removes the signalling channel from the physical location where the operator had originally placed it, in this case from the lowest link.

The invention is not restricted to the examples of its embodiments described above, but many variations are possible within the scope of the inventive idea defined by the claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for ensuring the operation of signaling channels in a V5 interface between a local exchange and an access node, the interface comprising:

reconfiguring V5 interface data in an interface composition having at least two signaling channels; and

ensuring active operation of protected signaling channels when starting a V5 interface, wherein the protected signaling channels are started on signaling channels defined in a new interface composition, and on signaling channels to which the protected signaling channels were transferred in a protection switch-over.

2. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the reconfiguring V5 interface data in the interface composition is carried out independently both in a local exchange and in an access node without changing a value of an interface composition parameter.

3. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the protected signaling channels transferred to a backup channel in a protection switch-over, remain at locations to which they were transferred in the protection switch-over, regardless of the reconfigured composition of the V5 interface.

4. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein composition changes in the reconfiguration of the composition of the V5 interface are made in an original composition regardless of protection switch-over operations carried out in the V5 interface.

5. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein an interface composition parameter is a provision variant parameter of the V5 interface, wherein the provision variant parameter includes the reconfigured V5 interface data.

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